

Finding jobs for workers is one of the chief goals of each Michigan Works! Agency (MWA). The MWA works in cooperation with the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) in registering individuals for work, but you do not have to collect unemployment benefits to use the MWA. Anyone may use this service at any time, without cost.

If you want or need assistance with your career change to civilian employment, the MWA can help. A full range of priority services can be provided to veterans, and qualifying spouses. Various tests can be given to help you decide on the best kind of work for you. The MWA also has information on retraining programs and occupations that are in demand, as well as information on job openings in your community, in Michigan, and in other parts of the country.

You can find the address of an MWA office nearest you by calling:

1-800-285-WORKS

1. THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (UCX) PROGRAM

The UCX program provides unemployment insurance protection to ex-service personnel of all ranks who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and who meet various Federal and State requirements outlined in this pamphlet. Employees of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are also covered under this program.

2. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE UCX PROGRAM

Upon separation from Federal service, you may file a claim for unemployment benefits. The claim may be filed in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Canada or Puerto Rico. You should take the following records with you when you file your claim:

- a. A clear, legible copy of the Member 4 copy of your DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. If any other Member number is used (2 thru 8), the copy must be certified. You cannot submit a Member 1 copy.
- b. Your Social Security card and one piece of identification with your picture on it, such as a driver license.
- c. Your record of employment, if any, before and after military service if such employment occurred within the last 18 months.

3. FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFITS

You must meet certain Federal qualifying requirements to be eligible for benefits under the UCX program. To file an unemployment claim, you must be separated from military service. Your filing date must be on or after the date shown in Item 12(b) on your DD Form 214. You must also have been discharged or released under honorable conditions (or, if an officer, you must not have resigned for the good of the service) after completing your first full term of service.

If you were discharged or released before

completing your first full term of service, you may still be eligible for benefits if the narrative reason for separation on your DD Form 214 is one of those provided by your branch of service as acceptable for UCX eligibility.

NOTE: UCX benefits are also payable based upon active duty in a reserve status if:

- you were released under honorable conditions and
- you completed the full term of service for which you enlisted. If you were discharged/released prior to completion of your full term, you must be released under honorable conditions, and
- have been on continuous active duty for 90 days or more, and
- your narrative reason for separation must be one of those provided by your branch of service as acceptable for UCX eligibility.

Federal law prohibits you from receiving any unemployment benefits during the same period you claim/receive either Subsistence Allowances for Vocational Rehabilitation Training, or War Orphans' /Widows' Educational Assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Federal law permits you to receive other educational assistance allowances with no effect on your unemployment benefits, but the UIA must determine if the educational program you are under will affect your availability/ability to work in suitable full-time employment.

4. REQUIREMENTS OF THE MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT SECURITY (MES) ACT

If Michigan law applies to your claim, to be eligible for benefits you must meet the following conditions of the MES Act, in addition to the Federal requirements already outlined in Item 3:

- a. You must register for work, and certify that you are unemployed (or underemployed) for any week(s) you claim benefits;
- b. You must have active service in the Armed Forces within the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters (the base period of your claim) which precede the effective date (benefit year beginning – BYB) of your claim. This period is called the Standard Base Period; or

- c. If you do not have sufficient wages in the Standard Base Period, we will check your wages in an Alternate Base Period (the last 4 completed calendar quarters).

Regardless of the base period used, the wage requirements are the same, and benefits are payable during the 52-week period (benefit year) after you file your new claim.

Wage Requirements:

- You must have at least one quarter in which you earned a minimum of:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
\$1,998	October 1, 2006
\$2,697	April 1, 2007
\$2,774	January 6, 2008
\$2,871	January 4, 2009; and
- You must have earnings in at least 2 quarters; and
- Your total base period wages must equal 1.5 times your high quarter wages.

Your base period earnings may consist entirely of Federal military service or a combination of military service, Federal civilian service, and/or work with employers covered by a state unemployment compensation law.

- d. You must be able to work, be available for suitable full-time work, and be seeking work (unless that requirement has been waived by this Agency).

You may be disqualified and lose some or all of your benefits if, after separation from military service, you began work with a state employer and:

- 1. Quit your job without good cause attributable to your employer, or if you voluntarily retire.
- 2. Were discharged for:
 - a. misconduct connected with work; or
 - b. intoxication while at work; or
 - c. absence due to conviction and imprisonment; or
 - d. participation in a strike or other concerted action contrary to a labor contract or in a wildcat strike or other concerted action not authorized by the bargaining unit; or
 - e. an act of assault and battery connected with your work; or

- f. the use or possession of an illegal substance at work, refusing to submit to a drug test, or testing positive on a drug test.
 - g. theft connected with your work.
 - h. deliberate destruction of property connected with your work.
3. Were originally separated from employment under nondisqualifying circumstances and it is later established that you committed a theft against your employer between the notice of your layoff or discharge and the effective date of your separation.
 4. Without good cause refuse, or fail to report for a job interview, fail to apply for a job, or fail to accept an offer of suitable work.
 5. Are unemployed due to a labor dispute (strike or employer lockout).
 6. Work for a temporary help firm (THF), file a claim, and do not notify the firm within seven days that a work assignment ended.

If disqualified for these reasons, you may be required to serve a 13 or 26 week requalification period. You may be subject to a rework, requalification, have benefits reduced by 13 weeks, or have benefits reduced to zero with the involved employer. (Refer to your UIA 1901, *Unemployment Benefits In Michigan* handbook, for more detailed information.)

5. YOUR UCX BENEFITS — HOW MUCH FOR HOW LONG?

The Michigan unemployment compensation payable to you depends upon your military paygrade at the time of separation from Federal service, and the amount of high quarter wages in your base period. The maximum weekly benefit amount is \$362, and payment weeks range from 14 to 26.

See your UIA 1901 handbook to determine your particular weekly benefit amount and number of payment weeks.

6. EFFECT OF RETIREMENT BENEFIT

The Federal government contributes 100% of all military and veterans' retirement and pension payments, including fleet naval reserve retainer pay. Therefore, if you are retired from Federal military service, any retirement benefit or disability pension you receive from your branch of service must be subtracted from unemployment benefits you receive. Your gross monthly retirement benefit will be prorated to a weekly amount. The weekly amount of your retirement benefit will be subtracted from the weekly unemployment benefit amount you would otherwise receive. If the weekly amount of your retirement benefit is equal to, or more than, your weekly unemployment benefit amount, you cannot receive any unemployment benefits.

Disability compensation may be paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs to ex-service personnel who are disabled by injury or disease incurred in, or aggravated by active service, in line of duty during war time or peace time service. Any disability compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs is NOT deductible from unemployment benefits payable under the UCX program.

7. PENALTIES

The law provides severe penalties for anyone who intentionally gives incorrect information to obtain or increase benefits. Always give correct and complete information when answering questions about your claim.

This pamphlet is issued for general information only. It does not have the effect of law, regulation, or ruling. If you have any additional questions covering this program, ask your claims taker or call our Inquiry Line at 1-866-500-0017 (TTY customers use -1866-366-0004) if you filed your new or additional claim by telephone or the Internet within the last 60 days.

State of Michigan
Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Unemployment Insurance Agency
3024 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48202

UIA

Lisa Estlund Olson, Acting Director

The Unemployment Insurance Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to this Agency.

Jennifer M. Granholm,
Governor



Sharon M. Bommarito,
Deputy Director

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